

# THE VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT MEDIA OUTLET OF  
LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

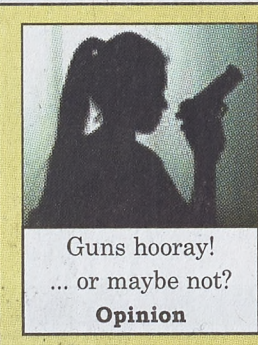
VOLUME 83, ISSUE No. 3

OCTOBER 21, 2015

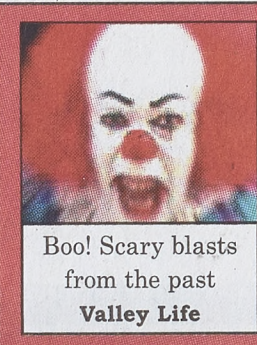
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Can't stop the  
Lady Monarchs  
Sports



Guns hooray!  
... or maybe not?  
Opinion



Boo! Scary blasts  
from the past  
Valley Life

## VALLEY LIFELINE

### Padawan, meet master

■ Monarch mentorships are many.

BY MELINDA HENRICKS  
STAFF WRITER

If you don't know where you are going, how are you going to get there? Mentorships and internships can be very useful in finding your path.

College enrollment and dropout rates are alarming: 30 percent of all college students drop out after one year and fewer than 50 percent ever finish. Two of the main reasons, according to [www.collegequarterly.com](http://www.collegequarterly.com), are that students are "academically unprepared" and they have "no identified goals."

The clock is ticking on them to figure it out: after passing a certain number of units, they lose their priority standing in class registration. Many students embark upon a major only to find out that they are not well-suited or are not interested in the targeted field.

According to the Association of American Colleges, 80 percent of all students will change their major. This is discouraging for the student, which contributes to a high dropout rate. If we were able to counsel and assist these students before problems occur, we would produce better outcomes.

History demonstrates that mentorships and apprenticeships are strategies used as tools that build confidence, assist students in defining abilities, and promote well-being.

Students who serve internships have the ability to work in the field they chose to study and get valuable experience. In addition, the student can discover if he/she likes the field and make an informed decision if they want to continue pursuing a particular career path.

The United States Department of Labor currently offers over 400,000 registered apprenticeships, which can be accessed through their website.

One of the defined paths to creating meaning and enjoyment in life is doing what you love, and exploring internships is one way to find your dream job.

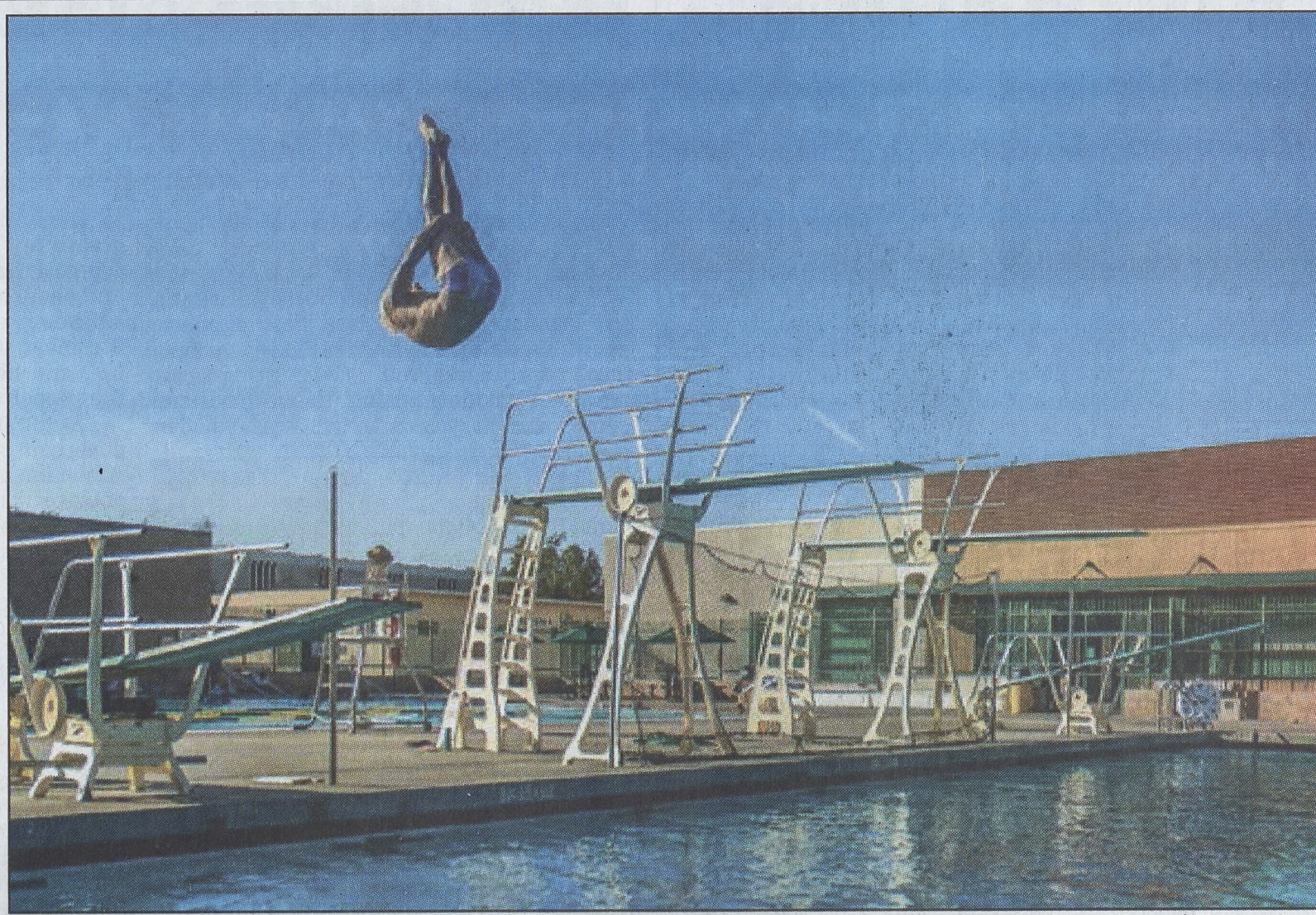
<http://www.dol.gov/odep/pubs/fact/cfm.htm>

## PERFORMING ARTS FALL PRODUCTION



BELEN CAMPIRANO/VALLEY STAR  
HANDICAPPED BY CIRCUMSTANCE - The Valley College Theatre Arts Department mounts Martin McDonagh's ballyhooed "The Cripple of Inishmaan." Please see the STORY p. 5 and GALLERY p. 6

Additional content online  
[www.thevalleystar.com](http://www.thevalleystar.com)



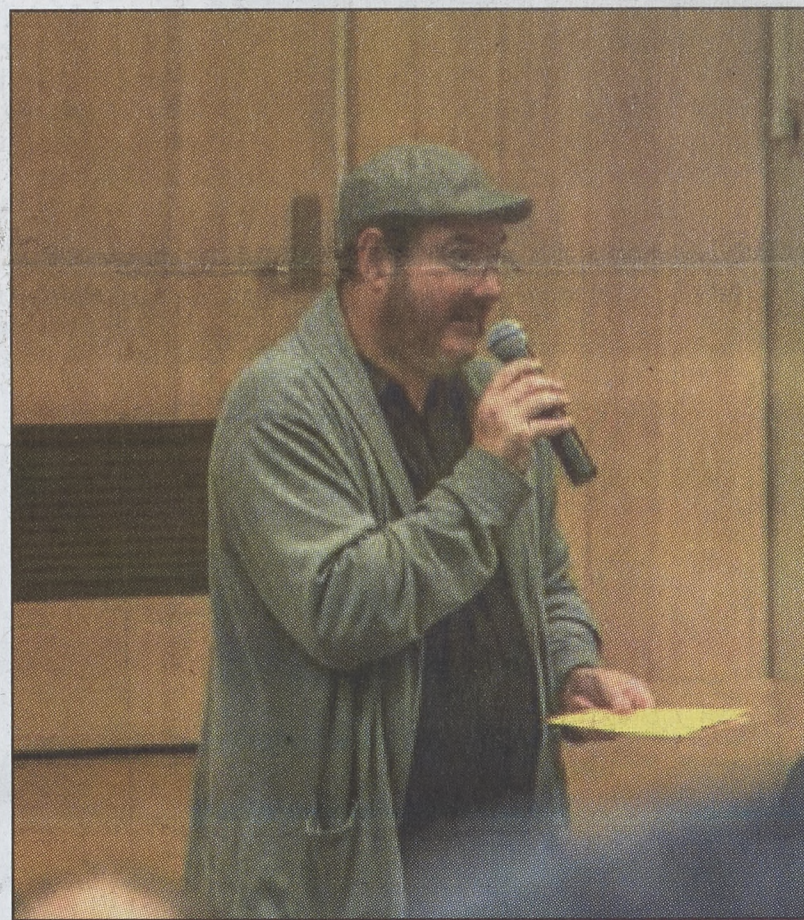
FLIPPING OUT IN THE HEAT - Monarch swimmers beat the heat during the recent record-setting stretch of triple-digit temperatures in the Valley.

MILENA BRAY / VALLEY STAR

## Monarchs, get your shorts on

■ Media Arts student films on the big screen.

BY CONNIE GERAGHTY  
STAFF WRITER  
KYLA HULETT  
COPY EDITOR



ALVIN CUADRA / VALLEY STAR

A SHORT SPEECH - Media Arts Department Chair Eric Swelstad introduces half a hundred one-minute student short films at the Annual Student Showcase at the Music Building Recital Hall Oct. 17.

## TECHNOLOGY

### Think about the future

■ It's a great time to be alive if you're lazy and like machines

BY ZACHARY SIERRA  
STAFF WRITER

The future is now.

We might be a little bit behind the schedule laid out by science fiction writers Isaac Asimov and Arthur Clarke, but we're definitely trending toward a wild sci-fi future.

While current technologies continue to improve, whole new ideas are beginning to present themselves, and old ideas previously limited by things such as battery power and material restrictions, are getting a new lease on life.

When the idea of the Internet was first posited by J.C.R. Licklider of MIT in 1962, it was so revolution-

ary that DARPA, America's mad scientist branch of government, began work on the very first interconnected servers. Now, fast forward more than 50 years, and we are on the verge of a new form of Internet.

The Internet of Things.

Imagine every object you interact with has a network profile and is hooked up to every device in the area, city, even the world. Using cloud computing allows for devices equipped with basic sensors and a network access terminal to interface with other machines. How about smart vending machines that track your calorie intake, smart bicycles that sync with your health app on your phone, smart parking meters that send text warnings and houses that lock themselves when owners leave?

see Tech page 5

community and giving them a platform.

"It's really an event for the filmmakers, to honor them and their hard work," Swelstad said. "Each film is a complete labor of love for these students."

The screening, which was held Oct. 17 in the Music Building, was not only packed with students and faculty, but with family and friends of the filmmakers.

Multiple media arts and cinema courses require students to write, direct and produce short films. It allows students to experience the film-making process. Students from the Fall 2014/ Spring 2015 semesters got the chance to show their completed films.

The films covered a variety of themes, including comedy, drama, suspense,

see Shorts page 5

## ART GALLERY



BELEN CAMPIRANO / VALLEY STAR

WITNESS TO HISTORY - Monarchs can get up close to some of the most iconic moments in photojournalism at an exhibit at the campus Art Gallery, "Newsworthy (Photographs Making History)." The exhibit opened with a panel discussion Oct. 15.

see story, page 5

## Valley's shooting protocol holds steady

■ Eight days, three schools, four shootings. Valley College is wary but hopefully prepared.

BY KEVIN BUCKLES, JR.  
SPORTS EDITOR

In light of the eight campus shootings across the nation since the Fall 2015 semester began, Valley College is conducting a campus-wide lockdown drill on Wednesday, Nov. 4 at 10 a.m. The drill will last about 15 minutes and all Monarchs present are to participate. The goal is for all students, faculty, and staff to be aware of what to do in the event of an active shooter on campus.

The school's security protocol in the case of an active shooter has not changed in the wake of the fatal incidents in Oregon, Arizona and Texas, but Valley will do its best to be prepared, according to Deputy Frank Velasco.

"If we are alerted that someone may have a gun [on campus], our responsibility is to immediately assess the situation to determine if we're going to lock it down," Velasco said. "If we have sufficient information that the threat is credible, our main responsibility at that point, if there is someone with a gun or if there is an active shooter, is to find that person right away."

"We would talk to witnesses, search the locations, request additional resources, deputies, and maybe a helicopter to ensure we are doing everything to find the person and keep everyone safe."

The Sheriff's Station would notify all faculty, staff, and students via Valley's Blackboard Connect, the emergency notification system that sends alerts by email, voice and text message to all Monarchs within minutes.

Valley's most recent lockdown was in June 2014 after the school received a call from a man saying he

see Shootings page 5

### School shootings Oct. 1-9, 2015

Three campuses, four shootings: Umpqua Community College, Northern Arizona University, Texas Southern University  
Dead - 12; Injured - 14

### School shootings since Sandy Hook

Incidents in which firearms were discharged on a campus since Dec. 14, 2012 Sandy Hook Massacre  
95, including 19 at K-12 schools\*  
Dead - 43; Injured - 26

### Mass shootings since Sandy Hook

Incidents in which at least four people were injured or killed by firearms  
Incidents - 10  
Dead - 1,249; Injured - 3,575

### Gun violence in 2015

All shootings regardless of number of victims  
Incidents - 41,611\*\*\*  
Dead - 10,352; Injured - 21,691

### On average, 92 gun-related fatalities every day in the United States\*\*\*

Sources: \* Source 1; \*\* Source 2; \*\*\* Source 3  
\*\*\* Source 4



## GUN CONTROL

# Father knows best: It's time to let Keep guns and liberty reason have a shot

■ Thomas Jefferson was a smart guy. And right about guns.

By ZACHARY SIERRA  
STAFF WRITER

The Second Amendment, which reads, "A well regulated Militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed."

Some contend that language suggests arms should only be kept by a well-regulated militia. Others argue it protects the rights to both forming militias and bearing arms. Excellent arguments have been made for both sides, creating a political stalemate.

But there was no stalemate among the founding fathers. They were strongly against the idea of a standing military, referring to it as "an engine of oppression." Instead, a militia was the ideal way to defend one's country. Every capable man was responsible for the security of his nation, and should be trained in its defense.

The question today is, Should we change the laws, would the loss of personal liberty be worth the lives saved?

That is, if gun control saves lives.

Thomas Jefferson said, "No free man shall ever be debarred the use of arms" and "The laws that forbid the carrying of arms are laws of such a [tyrannical] nature. They disarm only those who are neither inclined nor determined to commit crimes. ... Such laws make things worse for the assaulted and better for the assailants; they serve rather to encourage than to prevent homicides, for an unarmed man may be attacked with greater confidence than an armed man."

It's estimated there are 280 million civilian firearms in the the U.S. - nearly one for every person, though only around 42 percent of households own one. With those millions of guns, there are only around 30,000 deaths associated with a gun per year.

In 2010, nearly 20,000 people killed themselves with a gun. Meaning only around 10,000 of those deaths were accidental or murderous.

If you do the math, that means only .000036 percent of the guns in the U.S. are involved in murder or accidental death.

Will banning that tiny percentage really change anything? Will it save lives, or lead to disaster?

Honduras made it illegal to own guns and they have the highest murder rate in the world, according to the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime.

In Switzerland, every able male is military-trained and armed. They have the lowest homicide rate in the world. Similar correlations can be found in America.

Chicago features some of the most draconian gun laws in the United States, yet consistently ranks at the top for murder rates.

If the control of firearms, legal or illegal, prevented violence, Chicago should be the most peaceful city in the United States. Instead, it is exactly the opposite, leading the country in gun-related deaths.

This shouldn't really come as a shock. Violence has existed since before humans walked the earth.

The cycle of predator and prey is an immutable law, and the only way to avoid being hunted is to become the hunter. Lions don't hunt lions, wolves don't eat other wolves. Both, however, will prey on sheep - sheep who rely on the shepherd to keep them safe.

In our world, the shepherd would be the

police, who can't be everywhere at once.

We must secure ourselves. And herein lies the issue, it seems. People are okay with other people using guns, but rarely want to take the responsibility onto themselves.

They are okay with others fighting and dying, but they want to hide in the back. They would put our fate into the hands of the government or police so that they can

By SOLOMON SMITH  
CONTRIBUTOR

The heart of the problem with gun legislation in America lies in poorly thought-out laws created by people who do not understand how firearms work, or what goes into using them. Civilians seem to think if you can drive a car, you can

■ Gun laws made by the wrong people are putting us at risk.

to Iraq and Kuwait and years of eating, breathing, and living with firearms of all types. I have enjoyed their use for sport, and endured them as tools of my profession. I have experienced both ends of the rifle as a combat veteran, in civilian and military life, and believe they are useful tools with the proper training and respect.

Right now, a new Texas state law designed to "expand Texans' Second Amendment rights," according to the office of Governor Greg Abbot's website, will allow some licensed individuals to carry concealed firearms on college campuses. This will be enacted on Aug. 1, 2015, the 50th anniversary of the University of Texas at Austin "Tower Shooting," the first recorded mass shooting on a college campus, in which Charles Whitman killed 14 people and injured 32 others. And this, my friends, is how we deal with gun control in America: Crazy unlimited freedoms for everyone. This type of thinking is neither reasonable, nor effective.

Protesters at UT are going to respond the absurdity by carrying large dildos to class, hoping to spur college administrators to regulate the new "campus carry" law. According to their Facebook page, "You would receive a citation for taking a dildo to class before you would get in trouble for taking a gun to class. Heaven forbid the penis."

There is a caveat to every right we possess. The First Amendment does not allow you to say anything you want whenever you want (think libel, hate speech, and shouting "Fire" in a crowded theater) and the Second Amendment is no different. We limit, define, and explain the Bill of Rights through legal discourse, study, and yes, well-informed regulation.

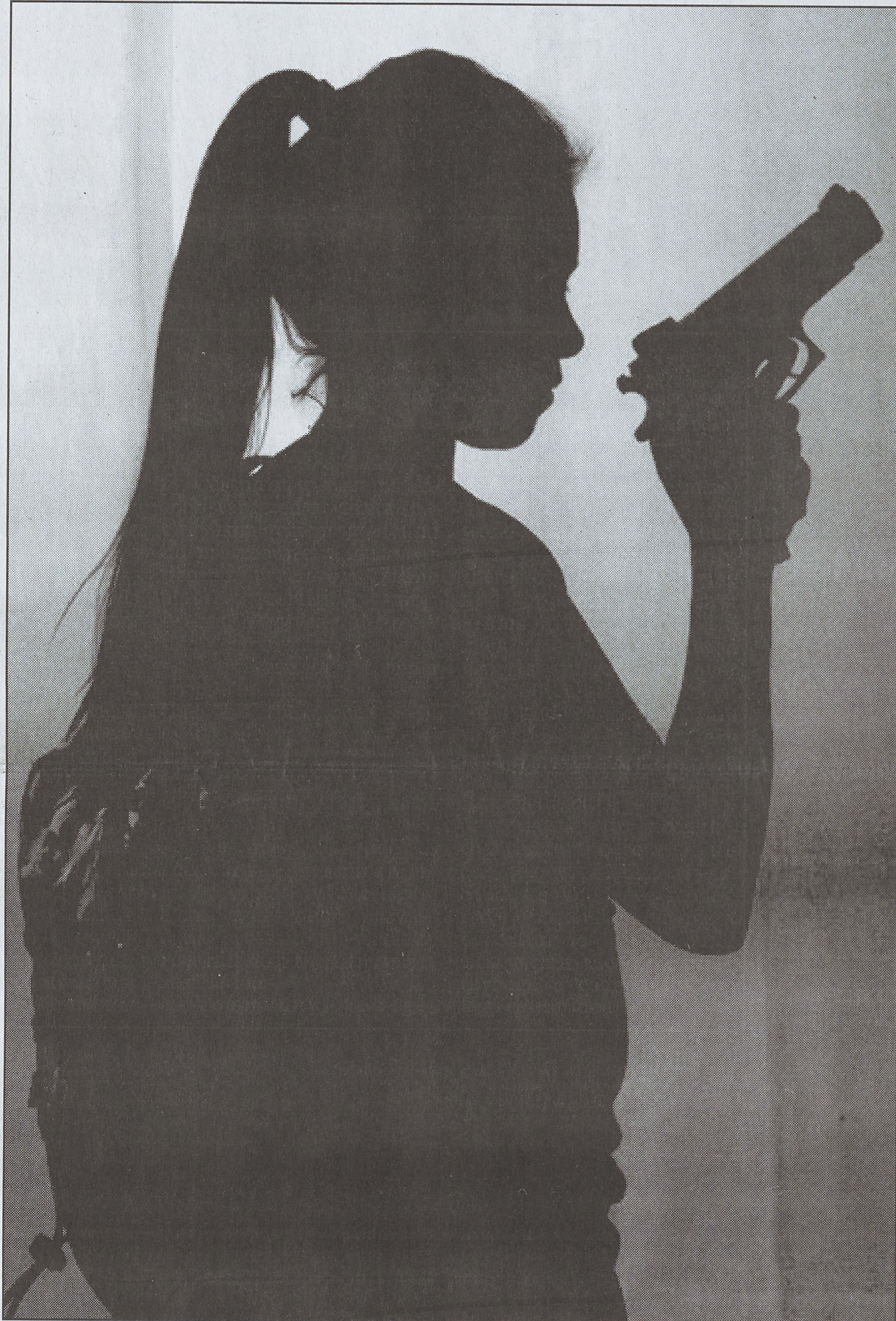
The sophomoric ultra-macho idea that we are all going to be able to stop gun violence not through regulation, but by sprinkling guns into the general population, or simply saying, "Hey guys! Everybody attack him! He may shoot me but he can't get us all!" as stated by GOP presidential candidate Dr. Ben Carson on Fox and Friends, is typical of someone who does not understand how to use a firearm.

It takes professional soldiers years of practice to be able to use a firearm in an urban setting, with both combatants and innocent bystanders in the same room. It is more than just shooting, but a combination of knowing and seeing what to shoot at, as well as being able to calmly asses a situation. As it stands today, many trained officers fail at this and I am not optimistic about untrained civilians doing any better.

This is where people get confused, so remember: I like firearms. I do not like irresponsible laws governing their use and control. This piece of Texas law epitomizes the ultra-violent machismo that those like Ben Carson espouse ad nauseum.

What this all adds up to is a need for gun regulations developed with reason, not fear. Laws that are strict about vetting a person getting a weapon, like thorough background checks and longer waiting periods. Systems that track firearms at least as well as we track our cars, and a standard of training that keeps scared citizens from shooting themselves or their loved ones.

Maybe we can never eradicate mass shootings, but we can make it more difficult for them to happen.



BELEN CAMPIRANO / VALLEY STAR

**HARD LESSONS** - The recent rash of school shootings has us reconsidering gun-control laws, sparking the usual impassioned debates. And why shouldn't we be arguing about it? It's only life and death.

go about their lives unhindered by issues of mortality or responsibility.

We cannot allow ourselves to trade independence for safety.

As Thomas Jefferson said, "Every citizen should be a soldier. This ... must be [for] every free state."

race in NASCAR, or possessing a gun and going to the range for a few hours is going to make you as proficient as a Navy SEAL.

I like firearms. I have spent nine years of my life living with, and loving the gun. I was an Infantryman in the California National Guard, with combat deployments

## HIGHER EDUCATION

## Community colleges one-stop shops

■ Monarchs didn't know they had it so good.

By MELINDA HENRICKS  
STAFF WRITER

California Community Colleges comprise the state's most cost-effective system of education.

While the state revenue needed to support one community college full-time student is slightly more than \$5,000 per year, that same student costs approximately \$7,500 in the K-12 system and \$20,000 and \$11,000, respectively, at UC and CSU. (figures released by the California Community College Chancellors Office).

Community colleges

offer education, employment strategies and opportunities for everyone in the community. Therefore, we must support them.

Serious funding issues due to the loss of Prop. 21 monies (state property taxes) have had far reaching effects and those funds need to be updated and replaced to meet the current needs of students and the community.

Additionally, the structure of education must change to meet the needs of an evolving employment market. Around 25 percent of community college students use the two-year schools to complete general education requirements and transfer to a university.

Certificate programs are more targeted toward a specific employment goal and do not require a four-year degree. Therefore, online classes, certificate programs, two-year degrees, and community resources are essential. Students choose a course of study that fits their needs. All of the above services fall under the community college umbrella as well as counseling and employment resources.

We must continue to add classes and programs at community colleges. This will help provide equal access to all students regardless of their financial restrictions.

Community colleges

offer students financial aid at no or low cost and work within the community to provide jobs. Locally, there are many mentoring and apprenticeship programs available. The US Department of Education reports there are over 400,000 registered mentor and apprenticeship programs. Counselors are trained professionals and will help students streamline their goals.

It is time to recognize that community colleges are one of our greatest assets. Students will save money, have better employment opportunities, and build ties within the community through a community college education.



BELEN CAMPIRANO / VALLEY STAR

**THE SPECTRE OF FUN** - A Dia de los Muertos celebration at La Placita Olvera, Los Angeles, Oct. 17.



# SPORTS

3

WOMEN'S SOCCER

## Crown them majesties

■ You can't stop them; you can only hope to contain them.

By **KEVIN BUCKLES JR.**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Coming into the season, the Lady Monarchs were viewed by some as a true underdog story – in soccer, not Ben Stiller and Vince Vaughn's "Dodgeball." Thirteen games in however, the ladies in green are top dogs.

Valley is off to their best start in team history with a record of 7-3-3 (4-0-2), and is tied for first place in the Western State Conference. Led by Head Coach Greg Venger, who has been instrumental in the program's turnaround since being hired in 2013, the team has improved in each of the last three seasons, with this year being the culmination.

The team has gone 5-0-2 in their last seven games, remaining undefeated in their conference, as they continue to blaze a new trail for their program.

"It's been a fun run, but we have to keep it going, the pitch [to the team to keep their undefeated conference streak going] is to win the conference," said Head Coach Greg Venger following Oct. 9's game vs. College of the Canyons at Monarch Stadium.

Most of the run can be directly attributed to the team's stellar defense.

For close to a month now, there has been a wall, built of bricks, hardened by cement, and wrapped in

saran plastic in front of the Lady Monarchs' goal.

Valley has not allowed a goal in their last six games – only one allowed in their last eight games – going 4-0-2 against conference foes to ascend to the top of the conference. The team also leads the conference in shout-outs this season with eight, which is on track to break last year's school record (10).

"My [team's] defense is really amazing," said sophomore goalkeeper Andreyra Ventura. "We all came together fast and it's way easier playing with people you like than playing with people that have tension. I think that chemistry has definitely helped the back line be as good as we are."

The back line of the defense was just brought together over the offseason as every defensive starter from last season (including the goalkeeper) moved on from the team. The new line features sophomores Ventura, Jasmine Shevitt and freshmen Abby Gonzalez, Jasmine Cisneros, and Jocelyn Hernandez.

"At first we weren't clicking, we lost 4-0 to Pierce," said Hernandez, who has five assists on the season. "I think just finding the right rotations and giving it time helped us find success quicker."

Their offense hasn't gelled as quickly, however. The team recently came off of a drought where they went three straight

games without scoring a goal. Though Coach Venger admitted that he believes his team's defense can carry them to a conference title, he acknowledged that their offense must improve after their 2-0 win vs. the West L.A. Wildcats Friday, at Monarch Stadium after his team shot 27 times and only produced two goals.

"Defense wins you championships, right? Offense will win you games, defense will win you a championship," said Venger with a sarcastic smirk. "But we have to be more creative and put the ball in the net in the final third, the score could have easily been six, seven, or eight to zero tonight."

Nevertheless, Venger seems pleased with his team winning while still working through the small kinks, mentioning that Valley's play is what he envisioned when he said this is the most talented team Valley has had earlier in the season. "We've never been in this position before," said Venger. "After three [conference] games we looked up and we were first place by ourselves, and thought 'We've never done this,' but we still have big games ahead."

Sophomore forward Liz Saavedra echoed her coach but remains excited and confident in her team. "A lot of people saw us as underdogs, now we're in first place."



ALVIN CUADRA/VALLEY STAR

**HEADING TO THE TOP** - Freshman defender Jocelyn Hernandez (center) heads the ball away from West L.A. College Wildcats during their 2-0 victory Friday at Monarch Stadium.

FOOTBALL



ALVIN CUADRA/VALLEY STAR

**RUNNING PAST THE COMPETITION** - Sophomore running back L'Dontez Bryant (24) dashes away from a defender in the Monarchs 45-27 Oct. 3 win vs. the Antelope Valley Marauders at Monarch Stadium.

By **KEVIN BUCKLES JR.**  
SPORTS EDITOR

After defeating the Antelope Valley Marauders 45-27 at Monarch Stadium on Oct. 3 (pictured left), followed by a win over the Santa Barbara Oles Saturday, the Monarchs find themselves in a position they haven't been in at least the last decade.

They are 5-1 in six games, including a perfect 3-0 record in conference which has them tied for first place with rival Santa Monica in the American Pacific Division. The Monarchs have already won as many games this season than they have since 2011 when the team finished 5-5, and are close to matching their 6-4 in 2010.

The Monarchs are led by new Head Coach Robert Tucker who joined Valley after being the head coach at West Hills College-Colinga last season. Tucker turned that program around from a 2-8 record prior to his arrival, to a 10-1 record last season to win the conference and being named Northern California's Football Conference Co-Coach of the year in the process.

Valley's can also attribute much of their success this season to their dominant running game as they are ranked fifth in the state in rushing yards per game (230.7) and third in rushing touchdowns (19). The defense has played just as well as they are ranked third in the state in total defense, including being ranked top ten in both passing yards (6th), and rushing yards (8th) allowed, per game, in the state.

The team will now focus their attention on their Oct. 24 showdown vs. the Santa Monica Corsairs at Corsair Field at 1 p.m.

The winner of the pivotal game will be in sole first place of the American Pacific Division.

### Sports Brief

■ **MLB**

The red, hot, Kansas City Royal will look to close out the Toronto Blue Jays in Game 5 of the ALCS tonight, after defeating the Jays 14-2 last night to take a 3-1 lead.

The Chicago Cubs will be looking to stay alive in front of their home crowd tonight, as they try to climb themselves out of a 0-3 NLCS hole vs. the New York Mets.

■ **NFL**

Only five teams remain undefeated six weeks into the NFL season: the Patriots, Bengals, Broncos in the AFC, and the Panthers and Packers in the NFC.

Of the undefeated teams, Tom Brady, Cam Newton, Andy Dalton, and Aaron Rodgers are leading candidates for the MVP award.

■ **NBA**

The NBA season is less than a week from kicking off when the Chicago Bulls will host LeBron James and the 2014 Eastern Conference Champion Cleveland Cavaliers Tuesday, Oct. 27.

The featured game will follow with the defending NBA champion Golden State Warriors hosting the New Orleans Pelicans.

### MONARCHS SPORTS CALENDAR

■ **Football**  
5-1 (3-0)

@**Santa Monica College** - Saturday 10/24 vs. Santa Monica Corsairs, 1 p.m.

@**Valley College** - Saturday 10/31 vs. Pierce Brahmas, 12 p.m.

@**Valley College** - Saturday 11/7 vs. Glendale Vaqueros, 6 p.m.

■ **Women's Soccer**  
7-3-3 (4-0-2)

@**Bakersfield College** - Friday 10/23 vs. Bakersfield Renegade Knights, 4 p.m.

@**Valley College** - Tuesday 10/27 vs. Santa Monica Corsairs, 4 p.m.

@**Antelope Valley College** - Friday 10/30 vs. Antelope Valley Marauders, 4 p.m.

■ **Men's Water Polo**  
10-5 (3-0)

@**Valley College** - Thursday 10/22, vs. American River, 6 p.m.

@**Golden West** - Friday-Saturday 10/23-24, Golden West Tournament, TBA

@**Cuesta College** - Wednesday 10/28 vs. Cuesta Cougars, 3 p.m.



## MOVIES



LORIMAR TELEVISION / PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY VALLEY STAR STAFF  
AM I A CLOWN TO YOU? - Tim Curry's Pennywise in "It" may be even scarier than his Frank N. Furter.

## You wanna see something really scary?

■ Stay in and get scared out of your minds with rentable chillers.

BY CONNIE GERAGHTY  
STAFF WRITER

Watching scary movies is one of the best traditions of the Halloween season ... and it happens to be my least favorite part. But for you, the Valley community, I've relived my childhood traumas to compile a list of a four rentable films to scare your socks off.

Let's talk about the seemingly harmless, yet actually evil, Tooth Fairy, a flying creature that breaks into your home at night to steal your teeth. With the promise of money or a small gift, childhood logic is totally okay with this demon visiting them every now and then. In the town of "Darkness Falls" (2003) the former pillar of this small 1850s community is falsely accused of the kidnapping of two boys and hanged for her crimes. She utters with her last breath a curse: "What I took before in kindness, I will take now in revenge." Over 150 years later she still visits every child on the night they lose their last tooth, but if they're unlucky enough to gaze upon her porcelain mask, a tooth is not the only thing they will lose.

"Darkness Falls" will hit you with nostalgic childhood terror just in time to rot your teeth out with Halloween candy. Then you'll be haunt-

ed by that other evil entity: your dentist.

"The Ring" (2002) holds a special place in the petrified hearts of many millennials for being one of the first truly terrifying horror films about (then-)modern technology. After watching a cursed VHS tape, the viewer then gets a call (on the landline of course) simply stating, "Seven days." The clock is now ticking, and not just on the viability of the VHS format. A murdered girl named Samara haunts the tape and all who watch it, forcing them to relive her disturbing life, right up to her murder.

Samara was the the main character in many a nightmare throughout my childhood, making me fear every time the television went out or the phone would ring that my time was up, that this waterlogged little girl was here to break the fourth wall and crab crawl me to death. "The Ring" is a slow tantalizing horror film that not only has the jump scare rating above eleven but gets inside your mind with the fear that such an innocent object could cause irreparable damage.

Stephen King is literary monarch of the horror genre, with 54 published novels and over 350 million copies of his books sold worldwide. "It" (1990 miniseries) is one of the most bone-chilling film adaptations of

his works. Pennywise the Dancing Clown lives in the sewers of Derry, Maine and eats children. Played by the astonishing Tim Curry (Dr. Frank N. Furter in the other kind of Halloween treat, "The Rocky Horror Picture Show"), the unforgettable Pennywise has talons for hands and a face that not even a mother could love. All this is wrapped up in everyone's first phobia: an evil clown. Why are clowns so freaky? I don't know. But they are. Admit it. This "Halloween" classic is a sure fire way to spark up those childhood traumas sustained at the state fair.

"Halloween" (1978) is probably the most fitting horror film to watch this October, in which a local urban legend proves all-too real. In Michael Myers' first film appearance, he has escaped the mental hospital he's been locked away in for the past 15 years since the fateful All Hallows Eve on which he murdered his sister. "Halloween" is still a cult favorite today because it is simply scary. By slowly taking out all obstacles (a.k.a. people) around him, Michael Myers becomes seemingly invincible, which only adds to the terror of his spree. The crazed mind behind his white mask is enough to send anyone running. Neat trivia: That mask is actually William Shatner's face. Scary!

## CAMPUS STYLE

## Space-age bachelor pad togs

BY JAZMINE SANCHEZ  
STAFF WRITER

Joshua Esquivel is a 21-year-old Valley College student who isn't afraid to try new looks, especially new-old-vintage ones.

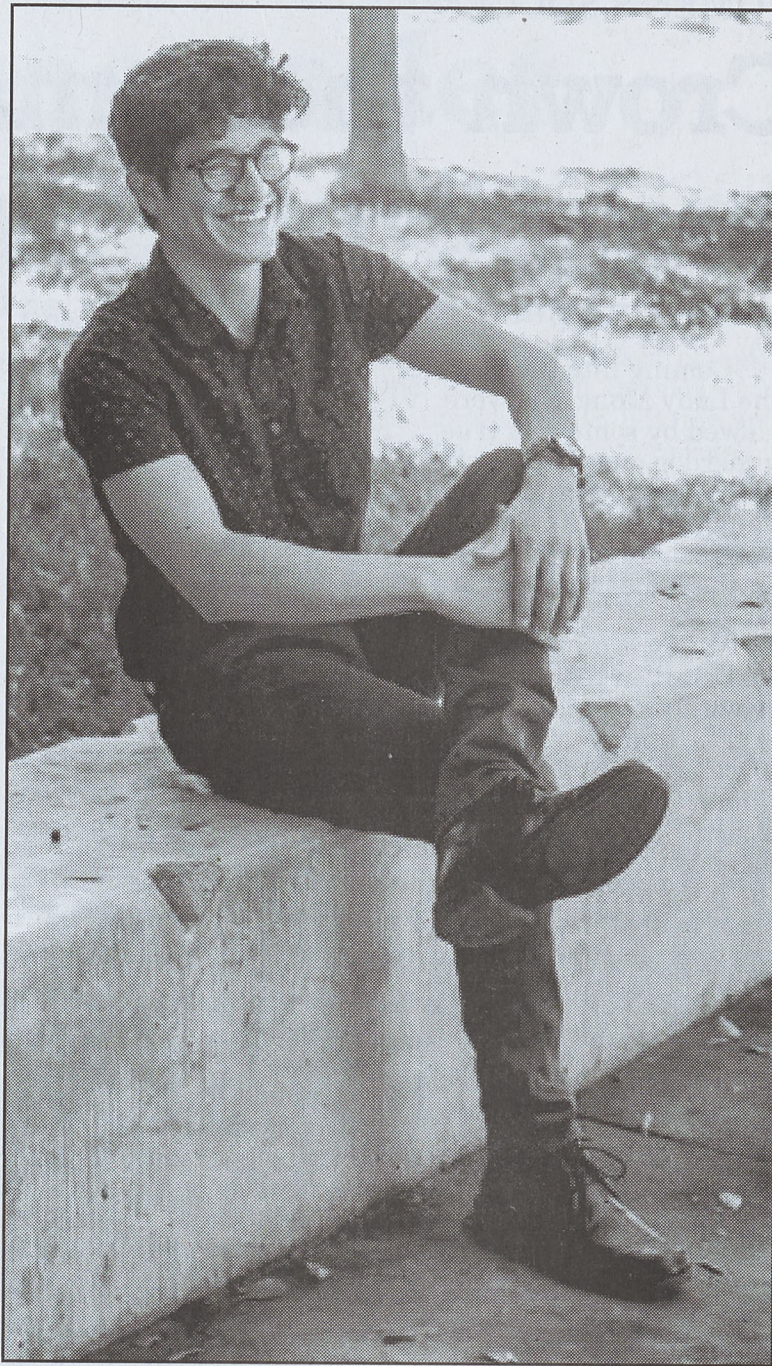
In a midnight-blue, polka-dotted, short-sleeved button-down shirt, burgundy tapered jeans, and black patent-leather, low-heeled boots, Esquivel is downright Alex Turner-esque (if the frontman from The Arctic Monkeys would want to know). Fitting for someone with a space-age bachelor-pad musician namesake, Esquivel would fit in on a '50s album cover.

"I would say my style is very eclectic," he says. "One day I'm just like trying to emulate the whole nerd-core thing like 'Star Wars,' but lately I've been trying to up my style. I would consider myself a fashion aficionado."

His favorite accessories include watches, jackets, Converse sneakers, and a special belt which his mother who used to wear when she was younger.

"I love blazers to just throw on top of something. I can't live without a pair of Converse," Esquivel says.

Whether he is being inspired by pop culture or the quasi-Johnny Depp look, Esquivel is all for trying new things and is open to new ideas. He advocates being adventurous and taking risks. He strongly sug-



JAZMINE SANCHEZ / VALLEY STAR

THE PAST IS THE NOW OF THE FUTURE - Just the right vintage.

gests wearing something one has never worn before.

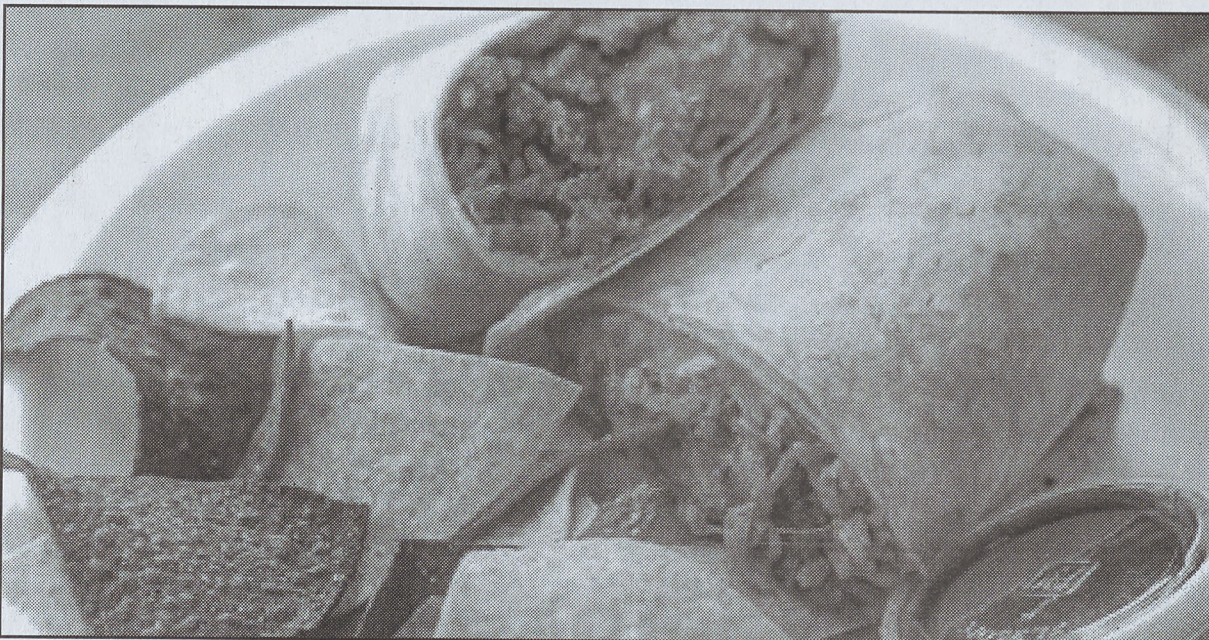
He makes buys most of his clothing from the likes of Forever 21 and vintage shops such as Buffalo Exchange and Crossroads.

"Were seeing a shift where it's all about the recycled fashion. I love vintage stuff like that. I go nuts for leather jackets and bomber jackets."

Besides having great taste in fashion, Esquivel is also fond of the arts. He was currently cast as the title character in Valley's fall production of "The Cripple of Inishmaan." He plans on transferring to a four-year college someday, and although his major is yet undecided, he plans on continuing to work with theater arts.

## FOOD

## Pepper: the spice of life



JAZMINE SANCHEZ / VALLEY STAR

BURRITO HO! - The "pirate burrito" will make off with your heart at Pepper Mexican Grill.

BY JAZMINE SANCHEZ  
STAFF WRITER

Only a few months old, Pepper Mexican Grill, delivers a warm ambiance with mouth-watering dishes that are low budget but jam-packed with flavors.

From the outside it embodies your typical hole in the wall restaurant, but once you enter it you are hit with the aroma of Mexican dishes. The music playing ranges among different styles and genres. As opposed to your other traditional Mexican restaurants covered in Hispanic decorations, the décor is simple but the smell is mesmerizing.

Faint orange walls, brick-colored tiles and wooden tables with pale white chairs adorn the inside of the small restaurant located on the corner of Burbank and Fulton Avenue. Pepper has been serving up authen-

tic dishes since February, offering appetizers such as nachos, quesadillas, and churros.

One of their popular appetizers, the carne asada fries, is more like a meal due to its sizeable portion. It is made up of slightly toasted french fries that are smothered with nacho and jack cheese, sour cream, guacamole, and pico de gallo.

They also offer a breakfast selection including breakfast burritos and chilaquiles: house-fried chips with bacon, tomatillo salsa, and cheese served with fried beans and eggs.

Lunch features their popular "pirate burrito," made of well-seasoned steak, creamy cheese, onions, cilantro, fresh guacamole, beans, rice, and slightly spicy red salsa wrapped in a soft flour tortilla. The dish is served with colored corn chips and house salsa, and it is defi-

nately worth trying.

The Pepper Mexican Grill offers a student and military discount of 10 percent. If you check in on Instagram or Yelp, you are offered a free taco. When you order through GrubHub.com, you are given 10 percent off with a \$15 minimum purchase by entering the promo code gch04287 (expires Nov. 21, 2015).

Prices range from \$1.80 for tacos to \$8 for burritos. Located across the street from Valley College, it is convenient and affordable for students due to low prices and large portions.

**Pepper Mexican Grill**  
13321 Burbank Blvd, Suite C. Van Nuys  
(818) 616-3997  
Monday-Friday 9a.m.-9 p.m., Saturday-Sunday 10a.m.-7p.m.  
Instagram: @peppermexicangrill

## ART

## Get lost in the light

■ James Turrell's "Breathing Light" at LACMA is a wonder.

BY ZACHARY SIERRA  
STAFF WRITER

You may not have heard of James Turrell, I hadn't either, but after experiencing his installation, "Breathing Light," it is a name you will not soon forget.

According to LACMA materials, the Angeleno Turrell is "considered one of the most important artists of the Southern California Light and Space movement," in which artists manipulate viewers' sensory experience of light and color. On display during an extended run, the exhibit is included with general admission. Entry is controlled and reservations are required to prevent overcrowding.

When entering the antechamber, visitors are met

with a low bench running along the right hand side of the room. There are cubbies in which to stash your shoes, with special foot coverings provided. There is then a brief presentation so common in museums about not being allowed to touch the art and to stay five feet from the back of the display.

All of these words flow in and out of your ears, a drone half heard while immersed in your own thoughts or conversations. Then you are signaled to walk up a pyramid of stairs to what looks like a projection on the wall.

Instead you step into another dimension.

Light ebbs and flows, constantly shifting tone and intensity. A rounded space surrounds you above and below, left and right.

Ahead, there is only eternity: A tunnel reaching out into color so pure and deep, I nearly stumbled on my feet. Vertigo overtook me and I had the keenest sense of falling into that endless space of color for the briefest moment. Depth cannot be assessed, nor height or breadth. A brilliant void lays in front of you without blemish or pattern. Only pure, infinitely deep spectra reaching forward to pull you in.

And it breathes, vacillating between hues and tones. Darkness surges forward, causing you a moment's panic, as though the sun itself was dying, before surging back to an almost painful brilliance.

The space has a nearly spiritual grace to it, your emotions rising and falling,

see **Light** page 5



# ETC.

5

## 'Shootings'

continued from page 1

was on his way to campus. The lockdown initiated at approximately 10 a.m. and lasted most of the day, forcing final exams to be rescheduled. The threat ended up being a hoax, as the suspect who made the call was simply upset over failing a class, according to NBC News.

"I, myself, have a lot of experience in not only lockdowns, but in training for an active shooter," Velasco said. "They send us regularly almost every month to an actual training to prepare ourselves for a situation as such."

"I was there for the East LA College lockdown, almost two years ago now. We received a threat of a possible student that was suicidal and were told that he had some weapons with him. We ended up finding the guy in Long Beach and that's where he was detained and arrested. No one was hurt or injured."

In the event of a false alarm, Velasco stated that the station and campus would remain on alert.

"If we don't feel like the threat is credible, we will still take precautions and make sure we have the resources and people here needed," said the deputy. "There have been instances where somebody has reported that they've thought they've seen someone else on campus with a gun, but it ended up [not being a weapon]. We may not go on lockdown in that situation, but just standby just in case. Every situation is different."

The emergency response plan is available in classrooms, other campus buildings and online at <http://www.lavc.edu/erp/index.aspx>. It details what to do in the event of emergencies, including involving an active shooter. In that case, the plan advises Monarchs to immediately call the Sheriff's Office if shots are heard, move away from the noise and under no circumstances approach the shooter.

It then advises to find a safe place to hide, ideally in a locked classroom with the door blockaded. If the shooter were to approach someone, Monarchs are told to comply with the shooter's demands and to fight only as a final resort.

The recent campus shootings, including those in Oregon, Arizona and Texas over an eight-day span, have left an impression on Velasco despite there not being any changes in how the station will operate.

"It's terrible," said Velasco. "Because of these incidents, we need to make sure we get the message out that people need to be aware of what to do in these situations. The worst thing [people] can do is not do anything. If there is an emergency on campus, they need to first alert us and do something to keep themselves safe."

For more information, visit the Valley College Sheriff's Station website at <http://www.lavc.edu/sheriff/> or call at (818) 947-2911.

## PERFORMING ARTS



YOHANNA DELEON / VALLEY STAR

**SPEECH IMPEDIMENT** - Cripple Billy (Joshua Esquivel) faces off with verbose town gossip JohnnyPateenMike (Nick Goodreau) in the Valley College production of Martin McDonagh's "The Cripple of Inishmaan."

## Limping toward glory

■ Martin McDonagh's play brings its brogues and big dreams to Valley.

By JAZMINE SANCHEZ  
STAFF WRITER

A Tony-nominated "Cripple" lumbers onto the Horseshoe Theatre stage with a group of villagers blinded by the illusion of fame.

"The Cripple of Inishmaan," a dark satire, is based on the making of "The Man of Aran," a fictional documentary by Hollywood filmmaker Robert J. Flaherty. The play follows villagers on an Irish island called Inishmaan whose lives are full of poverty, hardship and gossip. A crew arrives to film the documentary on the next island over, and deluded that they might become famous, the islanders scramble to be cast in the film. "Cripple" Billy Claven is looked down on, due to physical handicaps, but believes there is more to himself than the small-minded townspeople give him credit for. In their struggle to climb over each other, the villagers misrepresent one another through their lies, gossip, and actions.

Martin McDonagh is a prolific and popular writer whose black humor has not only graced the

stage, but films such as "In Bruges" and earned him an Academy Award for his short, "Six Shooter." Director Cathy Pyles felt it was time for Valley College to taste his dark Irish irony.

"This was my first choice," among his works, Pyles tells us. "I read all of McDonagh's plays this summer and I chose this one because it was the most sort-of friendly, apart from his darkness, and because he writes his plays with justified violence but with a dark twist. I also wanted the challenge of working on a play that had a dialect."

The cast is made up of nine Valley students, including 21-year-old Valley College student Joshua Esquivel, who plays Cripple Billy. Billy finds excitement in books and gazing at cows; his sensitive heart sets him apart from him cruel neighbors. According to Pyles, Esquivel (see Esquivel's separate feature in Campus Style) delivered "a sense of honesty and sweetness" in his audition.

When he was cast, Esquivel said his "first priority became to master the Irish accent. This is my

first play ever and after landing the main role I'm very blessed for that."

Another character, JohnnyPateenMike, makes it his objective to find out everything that is going on throughout the town and deliver it to those who want to listen. The 22-year-old theater major Nick Goodreau takes on the comic, yet bitter, man.

"Nick Goodreau has so much language in the play," says Pyles, explaining in return for news in the form of gossip, JohnnyPateenMike expects payment in one form or another. "He's consistently having to spew out long speeches of information."

"The hardest part was really trying to make him super-pushy because I'm not that way," says Goodreau, who has worked with Pyles previously. "There were moments where I wanted to take a more sentimental approach to the character."

"The Cripple of Inishmaan" will run Oct. 22-25 at 8 p.m. with Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. in the horseshoe theater. Tickets can be purchased at [Brownpapertickets.com](http://Brownpapertickets.com).

see Gallery page 6

## ART GALLERY



BELEN CAMPIRANO / VALLEY STAR

**CAPTURED FOREVER** - Among the great moments in photojournalism on display are Dorothea Lange's Depression-Era "Mother and Child" and a portrait of Rosa Parks (on wall, left) by Valley's own Rod Lyons.

## Indelible flashes of history

■ Photojournalism at its most iconic is on display at the Art Gallery.

By ARTHUR GARAKYANTS  
STAFF WRITER

Visitors to the Valley College Art Gallery have a chance to see a snapshot of history through the lens of photojournalists when they visit "Newsworthy (Photographs Making History)."

The collection of some of the most iconic moments in photojournalism is strong on the Civil Rights movement, the Vietnam War and the Kennedys. The 40-photograph display reminds viewers of 70 years of world history, from the 1920s to the 1990s, and will be in the Art Gallery until Dec. 17.

The photographs represent around 27 photographers, including a portrait of Rosa Parks donated by Valley Professor of Photography (and Co-Adviser of the Valley

Star) Roderick Lyons. Framed in a back wall is the illegal capture of Ruth Snyder's execution, shot by Tom Howard, who wired a camera strapped to his ankle. These 4 x 5 shots are graphic but they communicate human issues, whether it's racism, war or fatherhood.

According to the exhibit, it's literature, "photojournalism emerged as a significant genre of photography in the late 1920s and early 1930s. This practice represented picture making that was candid and unrehearsed, documenting historical events and people on film for publication in magazines and newspapers."

The gallery opened with a panel discussion that included Dennis Reed (former dean of arts and professor of art), Stephen White (independent curator of photography) and Lyons on Oct. 15. Photographs from the exhibit were put on a large screen. Reed compared the indelible Depression-Era image "Migrant Mother" by Dorothea Lange to Michelangelo's "Madonna and Child."

Lyons said of the black-and-white photographs, "This is really simplistic but essentially I believe this is true: If you look at a color image of an apple tree you're probably gonna move on, right? Because all that is familiar to you, but a monochrome picture is abstract by nature and so you have to look deeper into it and get meaning out of it instead of 'Oh, the apple is red.'"

"Newsworthy (Photographs Making History)" will run until Dec. 17 at the Valley College Art Gallery. Admission is free.

changes, though in my experience repeated jaunts lack the punch of the initial exposure.

**Breathing Light**  
LACMA  
5905 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036  
Free with general admission. Maximum occupancy: 8. Check in at a LACMA Ticket Office to reserve same-day access.



Additional content  
[www.thevalleystar.com](http://www.thevalleystar.com)

## 'Light'

continued from page 3

mercurial as the lights.

Some wept quietly, overwhelmed by the purity of the experience. Others simply stared ahead into the space before them in quiet contemplation, relaxation filling their features.

You are only given eight minutes in the space, though the full cycle runs over 20 minutes. You have to go multiple times to experience the full range of colors and

## 'Tech'

continued from page 1

And that is just scratching the surface of a technology that is expected to have fifty billion connected devices by 2020.

It remains to be seen how the IoT will affect another burgeoning industry, 3D printing.

A relatively new concept dating back to the late 1980's, 3D printing has gone through something of a renaissance in recent years and is only expected to become more prolific.

Companies are hard at work creating 3D printers designed for home use that can dishes, clothes and even a house. With the prevalence the IoT is expected to obtain, one might imagine that one day you will be able to design your clothes for the next day, complete

with health sensors and glow lights that sync to your smart phone.

This will, of course, allow for revolutions for almost any object-based industry.

With the emergence of Augmented and Virtual Realities, this could become more organic than ever before.

With the total immersion of VR, would-be designers, scientists, architects, doctors and more will be able to get up close and personal in a way they never could before.

The doctor won't be working from a small screen while doing the surgery, he will be seeing the surgery up close and personal, reduced in scale until the surgery is all he sees. The architect will walk the halls of his creation years before it is built.

One might ever wonder what this might do to labor

in varying fields.

Why go to the office when you can put on your VR goggles and be there instantly? How about sunglasses that come with an AR display? How will our social interactions change when someone's Facebook profile shows up next to their head as soon as you meet them?

So often we already look at the world through our phones, what happens when you are missing out if you aren't looking through the rose colored glasses of AR?

These technologies, like those that came before, promise great possibilities. But as history has shown, every blessing is also a curse.

We are on the verge of the next renaissance, the next great leap in human history, we must make sure we dedicate ourselves to the advancement of mankind and not its destruction.



## Brogues and Rogues

**Photos & Words By**  
Belen Campirano &  
Yohana De Leon

The residents of a tiny Irish village hope to ascend the ladder of fame by climbing over each other in Martin McDonagh's "The Cripple of Inishmaan." The Valley College Theater Department went into tech rehearsal for the award-winning play last week. Josh Esquivel (right) stars as "Cripple Billy."

For more information on the production running Oct. 22-25 in the Horseshoe Theater, see story on page 5.

